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NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
Mr. J. H. Smith	123 Main St.	Springfield	Ill.	62761
Mr. W. R. Jones	456 Oak Ave.	Chicago	Ill.	60601
Mr. T. L. Brown	789 Elm St.	Peoria	Ill.	61601
Mr. M. K. Davis	101 Maple Dr.	Rockford	Ill.	61101
Mr. P. Q. White	202 Pine Ln.	Decatur	Ill.	62521
Mr. R. S. Black	303 Cedar St.	Normal	Ill.	62451
Mr. V. T. Green	404 Birch Ave.	Urbana	Ill.	61501
Mr. Y. U. Hall	505 Walnut St.	Champaign	Ill.	61821
Mr. Z. V. King	606 Spruce Dr.	Carbondale	Ill.	62901
Mr. A. W. Lee	707 Ash Ln.	Macomb	Ill.	61451
Mr. B. X. Scott	808 Hickory St.	Edwardsville	Ill.	62021
Mr. C. Y. Adams	909 Sycamore Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. D. Z. Baker	1010 Poplar Dr.	St. Charles	Mo.	63071
Mr. E. A. Nelson	1111 Chestnut St.	St. Joseph	Mo.	64501
Mr. F. B. Carter	1212 Locust Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. G. C. Mitchell	1313 Walnut Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. H. D. Roberts	1414 Spruce St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. I. E. Turner	1515 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. J. F. Phillips	1616 Birch Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. K. G. Campbell	1717 Cedar St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. L. H. Evans	1818 Elm Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. M. I. Foster	1919 Maple St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. N. J. Green	2020 Pine Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. O. K. Hall	2121 Spruce Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. P. L. King	2222 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. Q. M. Lee	2323 Birch St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. R. N. Scott	2424 Cedar Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. S. O. Adams	2525 Elm Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. T. P. Baker	2626 Maple St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. U. Q. Nelson	2727 Pine Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. V. R. Carter	2828 Spruce Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. W. S. Mitchell	2929 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. X. T. Phillips	3030 Birch St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. Y. U. Campbell	3131 Cedar Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. Z. V. Evans	3232 Elm Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. A. W. Foster	3333 Maple St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. B. X. Green	3434 Pine Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. C. Y. Hall	3535 Spruce Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. D. Z. King	3636 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. E. A. Lee	3737 Birch St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. F. B. Scott	3838 Cedar Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. G. C. Adams	3939 Elm Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. H. D. Baker	4040 Maple St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. I. E. Nelson	4141 Pine Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. J. F. Carter	4242 Spruce Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. K. G. Mitchell	4343 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. L. H. Phillips	4444 Birch St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. M. I. Campbell	4545 Cedar Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. N. J. Evans	4646 Elm Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. O. K. Foster	4747 Maple St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. P. L. Green	4848 Pine Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. Q. M. Hall	4949 Spruce Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. R. N. King	5050 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. S. O. Lee	5151 Birch St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. T. P. Scott	5252 Cedar Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. U. Q. Adams	5353 Elm Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. V. R. Baker	5454 Maple St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. W. S. Nelson	5555 Pine Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. X. T. Carter	5656 Spruce Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. Y. U. Mitchell	5757 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. Z. V. Phillips	5858 Birch St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. A. W. Campbell	5959 Cedar Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. B. X. Evans	6060 Elm Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. C. Y. Foster	6161 Maple St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. D. Z. Green	6262 Pine Ave.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. E. A. Hall	6363 Spruce Dr.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. F. B. King	6464 Ash Ln.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. G. C. Lee	6565 Birch St.	St. Louis	Mo.	63101
Mr. H. D. Scott	6666 Cedar Ave.	St. Louis</		

- - 43. A method according to Claim 42, wherein the one member of the recognition group is coupled to at least one nucleation center, being one or more of the group consisting of: cluster containing metal atoms and metal containing complexes and metals. - -

- - 44. A method according to Claim 42, wherein the one member of the recognition group is coupled to at least one nucleation center being one or more of the group consisting of gold particle, cluster containing gold atoms and gold-containing complexes and molecules. - -

-- 45. A method according to Claim 42, wherein the one member of the recognition group is coupled to at least one nucleation center being one or more of the group consisting of cluster containing gold atoms and gold-containing complexes and molecules. --

A -- 46. A method according to Claim 42, wherein said {} recognition group is a member of the group consisting of: an antigen and an antibody or an antibody derivative with an antigen-binding domain; sugar and a lectin; a receptor and a ligand; a nucleotide sequence and a complementary nucleotide sequence; a nucleotide sequence and its binding protein or other specific binding agent; biotin and avidin or streptavidin; cellulose or chitin and cellulose binding domain. --

-- 47. A method according to Claim 42, wherein said treatment composition is an aqueous solution. --

-- 48. A method according to Claim 47, wherein said gold-providing agent is $\text{Au}^+(\text{SCN})_2^-$. --

-- 49. A method according to Claim 48, wherein said reagent is hydroquinone or naphthohydroquinone. --

-- 50. A method for assaying presence of a specific substance at sites on a substrate, comprising:

(a) providing conditions allowing formation of nucleation centers on sites containing said substance;

(b) contacting said substrate with a treatment composition comprising a soluble gold providing agent, being a gold-containing molecule or complex and comprising a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable such that upon such exposure gold metal is essentially not deposited on the substrate unless a nucleation center is present thereon, and in the presence of a nucleation center at said sites, gold atoms are released from said gold-providing agent and deposited onto said nucleation center to form gold metal deposits at said sites; and

(c) detecting metallic gold deposits on said substrate, a gold deposit at a site on the substrate indicating presence of said substance at said site. - -

- 51. A method according to Claim 51, wherein step (a) comprises:

(a1) providing nucleation center-forming agents which comprise each at least one moiety, having specific binding affinity to said substance, bound to at least one nucleation center being one or more of the group consisting of metal particle, cluster containing metal atoms and a metal-containing complex; and

(a2) contacting said substrate with said agents. - -

-- 52. A method according to Claim 51, wherein said moiety is included in one member of a recognition couple consisting of two molecules or complexes which specifically bind to one another, the other member included in or constituting said substance. - -

-- 53. A method according to Claim 52, wherein said recognition couple is a member of the group consisting of an antigen and an antibody or an antibody derivative with an antigen-binding domain; sugar and a lectin; a receptor and a ligand; a nucleotide sequence and a complementary nucleotide sequence; a nucleotide sequence and its binding protein or other specific binding agent; biotin and avidin or streptavidin; cellulose or chitin and cellulose binding domain; said moiety being one of the recognition couple and said substance being or including the other. - -

-- 54. A method according to Claim 50, for assaying the presence of one or more target oligonucleotides with a specific target sequence in a sample, comprising:

(a) providing a substrate carrying one or more probe oligonucleotides each with a probing sequence complementary to one of said target sequences;

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(b) contacting said substrate with the sample and providing conditions allowing formation of nucleation centers where a target oligonucleotide hybridizes to a probe oligonucleotide;

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(c) contacting said substrate with a treatment composition comprising a gold-providing agent, being a gold-containing molecule or complex and comprising a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable such that upon such exposure gold metal is essentially not deposited on the substrate unless a nucleation center is present thereon, and in the presence of a nucleation center at said sites, gold atoms are released from said gold-providing agent and deposited onto said nucleation center to form gold metal deposits at said sites; and

(d) detecting metallic gold deposits on said substrate, a gold deposit at a site on the substrate indicating the presence of said substance at said site. - -

- - 55. A method according to Claim 54, wherein said step (b) comprises:

- (b1) treating said sample to bind a label to oligonucleotides in the sample;
- (b2) contacting said sample with said substrate; and
- (b3) contacting said substrate with a nucleation center-containing agent, capable of specific binding to said label. - -

- - 56. A method according to Claim 54, wherein said step (b) comprises:

- (b1) treating said sample so as to bind nucleation centers to oligonucleotides present therein; and
- (b2) contacting said samples with said substrate. - -

- - 57. A method according to Claim 50, wherein said nucleation center is a gold particle a cluster containing gold atoms, or a gold-containing complex or molecules. - -

- - 58. A method according to Claim 50, wherein said treatment composition is an aqueous solution. - -

- 59. A method according to Claim 58, wherein said gold-providing agent is $\text{Au}^{\text{I}}(\text{SCN})_2$ and said reagent is a quinone. - -

-- 60. A method according to Claim 50, wherein said substrate is a specimen for viewing in an imaging or visualization technique. - -

- 61. A method according to Claim 60, wherein the detection technique is based on light. - -

-- 62. A method according to Claim 60, wherein the { } detection technique is based on light absorbance and/or light transmission and/or light reflectance and/or light scattering. - -

- 63. A method according to Claim 60, wherein said detection is made by techniques selected from: transmission electron microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, atomic force microscopy. - -

-- 64. A method according to Claim 60, for preparing the specimen for viewing in a microscope, comprising the following steps:

(a) providing conditions permitting formation of nucleation centers at selective sites of the specimen; and

(b) contacting said specimen with a treatment composition comprising a soluble gold-providing agent, being a gold-containing molecule or complex and comprising a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable such that gold is essentially not deposited on the specimen a nucleation center is present thereon, whereby gold atoms from said gold-providing agent are released and deposited onto said specimen at selective sites. - -

-- 65. A method according to Claims 50, wherein said substrate contains separated fractions of a sample. - -

-- 66. A method according to Claim 64, for identifying locations of a specific separation product on the substrate, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing conditions permitting formation of nucleation centers at sites on said substrate comprising said specific separation product;

(b) contacting said substrate to a treatment composition comprising a soluble gold-providing agent, being a gold-containing molecule or complex and

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comprising a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable such that gold is deposited on the substrate essentially only where a nucleation center is present thereon, whereby upon such contact, gold atoms from said gold-providing agent are released and deposited onto said nucleation center; and

(b) detecting presence of gold on said substrate, such gold signifying presence of said specific separation product on the substrate at a site where the gold is detected. --

- 67. A method for assaying presence of an analyte in a sample comprising:

(a) providing a substrate carrying capturing agents which bind said analyte;

(b) contacting said substrate with said sample, whereby said analyte binds to said capturing agents;

(c) providing conditions permitting formation of nucleation centers on sites of said substrate comprising said analyte;

(d) contacting said substrate with a treatment composition comprising a soluble gold-containing molecule or complex and a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable such that gold is deposited on the substrate essentially only at sites thereof containing the nucleation centers; and

(e) detecting metallic gold deposits on said substrate, indicative of the presence of said analyte in said sample. --

-- 68. A method according to Claim 66, wherein step (c) comprises:

(c1) providing nucleation center-forming agents which comprise each at least one moiety, having specific binding affinity to said analyte, coupled to at least one nucleation center being one or more of the group consisting of metal particle, cluster of metal atoms and a metal-containing complex; and

(c2) contacting said substrate with said agents.

-- 69. A method according to Claim 68, wherein said analyte is one of a binding couple consisting of an antigen and an antibody or an antibody derivative with an antigen-binding domain; sugar and a lectin; a receptor and a ligand; a

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nucleotide sequence and a complementary nucleotide sequence; a nucleotide sequence and its binding protein or other specific binding agent; biotin and avidin or streptavidin; cellulose or chitin and cellulose binding domain; and said at least one moiety is the other of said binding couple. - -

-- 70. A method according to Claim 67, wherein step (b) comprises:

(b1) contacting said sample with nucleation centers, the nucleation centers being one or more of the group consisting of metal particles, cluster of metal atoms and metal-containing complexes or molecules, and providing conditions for coupling of said nucleation centers to the analyte if present in the sample, thus obtaining a modified sample containing modified analytes; and

(b2) contacting said substrate with said modified analytes bound to said nucleation centers. - -

-- 71. A method according to Claim 70, wherein said analyte is one of a binding couple consisting of an antigen and an antibody or an antibody derivative with an antigen-binding domain; sugar and a lectin; a receptor and a ligand; a nucleotide sequence and a complementary nucleotide sequence; a nucleotide sequence and its binding protein or other specific binding agent; biotin and avidin or streptavidin; cellulose or chitin and cellulose binding domain; and said capturing agent is the other of said binding couple. - -

-- 72. A method according to Claim 67, wherein said capturing agents are carried on the substrate between electrodes such that gold deposited onto said nucleation centers in step (d) establishes an electric contact between the electrodes; and

detection of the gold deposits in step (e) is performed by measuring current-potential relationship between the electrodes. - -

-- 73. A method according to Claim 67, wherein said at least one metal particle, cluster of metal atoms or a metal-containing complex is a gold particle or cluster containing gold atoms. - -

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- 74. A method according to Claim 67, wherein said treatment composition is an aqueous solution. - -
- 75. A method according to Claim 74, wherein said gold-providing agent is $\text{Au}^+(\text{SCN})_2^-$. - -
- 76. A method according to Claim 74, wherein said reagent is a hydroquinone. - -
- 77. A kit for use in the method according to Claim 42, - -
- 78. A kit according to Claim 77, comprising a treatment composition which comprises a soluble gold-providing agent, being a gold-containing molecule or complex and comprises a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable such that upon contact with a substrate gold is deposited on a substrate essentially only at sites of the substrate containing nucleation centers. - -
- 79. A kit according to Claim 77, further comprising nucleation center-forming agents, for forming nucleation centers at one or more sites on the substrate, said agents comprise each at least one { } member of a recognition group having a specific binding affinity to a substance present at said one or more sites coupled to at least one nucleation center moiety, being one or more of the group consisting of metal particle, cluster of metal atoms and a metal containing complex or molecule. - -
- 80. A kit for use in a method according to Claim 67, for assaying an analyte in a sample, comprising:
- (i) a substrate carrying capturing agents which bind said analyte;
 - (ii) agents for forming nucleation centers at portions of the substrate on which said analyte becomes immobilized;
 - (iii) a treatment composition comprising a soluble gold-containing molecule or complex and a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable such that gold is deposited on the substrate essentially only at sites thereof containing the nucleation centers. - -
- 81. A kit according to Claim 80, wherein said agent for forming nucleation centers comprises a nucleation center and substances needed in order to couple said nucleation center to said analyte. - -

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-- 72. A kit according to Claim 80, further comprising nucleation center-forming agents which comprise each at least one moiety, having specific binding affinity to said analyte, coupled to at least one nucleation center moiety being one or more of the group consisting of metal particle, cluster of metal atoms and a metal containing complex. --

-- 73. A kit according to Claim 80, wherein said substrate comprises two or more electrodes, and said capturing agents are carried within gaps between the electrodes. --

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